

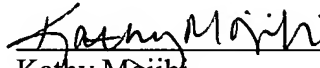
REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-17 remain pending. Claims 1, 7, 8, 12, 13 and 17 have been amended. Applicants submit no new matter has been added by the present amendment. Examination of claims 1-17 is respectfully requested.

If there are an issues that can be resolved by telephone conference or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to cal the undersigned attorney at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: January 21, 2004


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